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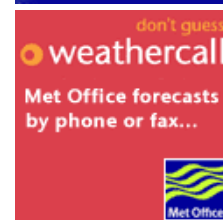
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Wimbledon weather not playing ball

18 June 2004

Weather prospects for the first week of the Wimbledon Championships are in the balance Met Office forecasters are warning. Some disruption to the tennis is likely, as rain looks set to keep the ground-staff busy with those covers.

With rain or showers forecast at some time on most days through the course of the first week, forecasters and the All England Club are working even closer together this year to enable Wimbledon staff to reduce the impact of the weather.

Met Office forecasters are on standby to go to the All England Club if requested by tournament officials in the event of unsettled weather. This on-site facility with weather experts at the scene with instant lines of communication, allows for the very best of services to be delivered to tennis officials.

Ewen McCallum, Chief Meteorologist at the Met Office said, "We are delighted to be working closely with the All England Club and are confident we can reduce the impact of the weather with this type of co-operation. I hope the weather is kind and allows for a great fortnight of tennis."

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